

Amendment No. 1 to HB0276

White
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 231

House Bill No. 276*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-706, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Approved EPP" means an eligible program of study, as defined in § 49-4-902, that is an educator preparation program approved by the state board of education;

(2) "Continuous enrollment" has the same meaning as defined in § 49-4-902;

(3) "Eligible institution" means an eligible postsecondary institution, as defined in § 49-4-902, with an approved EPP;

(4) "Full-time student" has the same meaning as defined in § 49-4-902;

(5) "Gift aid" means financial aid received from the federal Pell grant, the Tennessee education lottery scholarship, or the Tennessee student assistance award;

(6) "Minority" means a person who is:

(A) Black, African American, or who has origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa;

(B) Hispanic, Latino, or of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race;

(C) Asian American, or who has origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent;

(D) Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, or who has origins in the Pacific Islands; or

(E) American Indian, Alaska Native, or who has origins in any of the original peoples of North America;

(7) "MTFP" means the minority teaching fellows program; and

(8) "TSAC" means the Tennessee student assistance corporation.

(b) TSAC shall administer a minority teaching fellows program for talented Tennesseans who aspire to be teachers. Participation in the MTFP is limited to college juniors, seniors, and post-baccalaureate candidates who are admitted to approved EPPs in this state and who desire to teach in the public schools of this state.

(c) To receive an MTFP award, a student must:

(1) Be a United States citizen;

(2) Be a Tennessee resident, as defined in § 49-8-104;

(3) Be a minority;

(4) Be enrolled in an approved EPP at an eligible institution;

(5) Not be a licensed teacher, and must not be employed, or previously employed, in a teaching position;

(6) Submit an application, as required by TSAC;

(7) Submit copies of all official transcripts to TSAC;

(8) Submit one (1) letter of recommendation to TSAC attesting to the student's commitment to teaching from an official of the enrolling institution; and

(9) Not owe a refund or repayment on any grant, and must not be in default on any loan received at any postsecondary institution under the provisions of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

(d) TSAC shall select recipients for an MTFP award as follows:

(1) Each year for which funds are available, the executive director of TSAC, or the executive director's designee, along with representatives of the state board of education and the department of education, shall form a selection committee to determine the ranking of applicants for an MTFP award in accordance with a ranking system adopted by the selection committee;

(2) Priority for an MTFP award must be given to renewal applicants;

(3) In ranking applicants, the selection committee shall consider:

(A) The applicant's:

(i) Eligibility for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship under chapter 4, part 9 of this title;

(ii) Postsecondary grade point average; and

(iii) Standardized test scores;

(B) Evidence of the applicant's commitment to teaching, including, but not limited to, the applicant's completion of the department of education's education and training career clusters, and other experiences that would indicate the applicant's interest in teaching; and

(C) Other factors identified by the selection committee; and

(4) Approved applications are subject to the availability of funds.

(e) To continue to receive an MTFP award, a student must:

(1) Maintain continuous enrollment in an approved EPP;

(2) Maintain the minimum cumulative grade point average required by the approved EPP, if any; and

(3) Attend an approved EPP as a full-time student if the student is enrolled as an undergraduate student. During periods of internship or student teaching, undergraduate recipients may be enrolled in, and attend, an approved EPP less than full time. Post-baccalaureate recipients may attend less than full time, as determined by the institution's written policies.

(f) If a student receives an MTFP award, then the student may continue to receive an MTFP award until the occurrence of the first of the following events:

- (1) The student attains a degree or completes a post-baccalaureate licensure preparation program through an approved EPP;
- (2) The student ceases to be eligible under subsection (e); or
- (3) Four (4) years have elapsed from the date of the student's enrollment in a term for which the student received the student's first MTFP award.

(g) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, the amount of an MTFP award is the cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged to all undergraduate students for coursework leading to completion of an approved EPP at the institution attended, less all other gift aid for which the student is eligible, which must be credited first to tuition and mandatory fees before an MTFP award is applied.

(h) Notwithstanding subsection (g), the amount of an MTFP award at a private institution must not exceed the average cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged to all undergraduate students for coursework leading to completion of an approved EPP at the state's public institutions, less all other gift aid for which the student is eligible.

(i) Any MTFP award made prior to July 1, 2023, that was not converted to a scholarship loan evidenced by a note payable to TSAC that was executed prior to July 1, 2023, must not be converted to a scholarship loan and all subsequent eligibility determinations for MTFP awards are controlled by this section.

(j) TSAC may promulgate rules and develop criteria for the selection of minority Tennessee citizens who may receive an award, the distribution of awards based on the level of enrollment, appeals, and for the general management of the program. Rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.